

# NEWS FROM

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## **Financial Aid Tip of the Month, November 2005**

### **Pay attention to deadlines for scholarships, admissions**

Now is the time college-bound seniors need to start paying close attention to application deadlines for college admissions and financial aid. Here are some tips to keep in mind from the Alabama Student Loan Program and The Student Loan People<sup>sm</sup>:

- If you haven't yet picked a college, narrow your list by visiting schools and talking with students and your parents.
- If you plan to go through the Early Decision process, which means you commit to going to a particular school in the fall, most schools request the applications be submitted about this time of year.
- If you're going through the regular admissions process, now is the time to talk with teachers about writing recommendations and to work on your admissions essay if you have to write one. Many private colleges require an essay as part of the admissions process.
- Check with the financial aid offices of the schools to which you're applying to determine if they require any financial aid forms other than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Attend any college fairs and financial aid seminars offered by your high school or in your area. Remember—if a company wants to charge you a fee for helping you with admissions and financial aid applications, make sure it's a reputable company by checking with the State Attorney General's office or Better Business Bureau in your area and the area where the firm is located.

For more information about student financial aid and college planning, visit [www.alstudentaid.com](http://www.alstudentaid.com) or [www.alabamamentor.org](http://www.alabamamentor.org); write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.